

WILLIAM H. McCANN.

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Mr. FRYE submitted the following

PAPERS TO ACCOMPANY SENATE BILL NO. 4239 "A BILL GRANTING AN INCREASE OF PENSION TO WILLIAM H. McCANN.

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FEBRUARY 9, 1904.—Referred to the Committee on Pensions and ordered to be printed.

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LEWISTON, ME., *February 3, 1904.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: Poverty is no disgrace when not brought on by vicious habits and abuse. I am poor and in very bad health caused entirely by my service in the Army of this Republic, defending its integrity and Constitution. Were my habits in any way responsible for my present condition, I would not for a moment think of troubling you with this matter. Not only have I been a defender of the country, but have ever showed myself firm and constant in the support of the party now in power. I inclose in this letter the affidavits of some of your townsmen with whom you are personally acquainted, and whose word can be relied upon as surely as a United States bond. I am addressing you, thinking that in view of our former association in municipal affairs, you might find it possible between your so many other much more important duties, to render me a little assistance in obtaining an increase of my pension, knowing that a word from you will be of much greater influence than from any other man. It is a great effort for me to write with my cough and stiffened fingers, caused by rheumatism.

Very sincerely,

WM. H. McCANN.

Hon. WM. P. FRYE,  
*United States Senator, Washington, D. C.*

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PETITION OF WILLIAM H. M'CANN.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:*

The undersigned respectfully represents that he is 58 years of age; was a corporal in Company H, Thirteenth Regiment Maine Volunteer Infantry, during the civil war; that he was in the service three years and eleven months; that he contracted disease while in the service which totally incapacitates him from labor; that on the 18th day of

February, 1903, he was granted a pension for disability while in the service; that he has no property and no means of support except said pension of \$14 per month, and he asks an increase of pension by special legislation of \$22 per month, so that he may receive from both pensions the sum of \$36 dollars per month.

Dated at Lewiston, Me., January 11, 1904.

WILLIAM H. McCANN.

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AFFIDAVITS.

I, William H. McCann, of Lewiston, county of Androscoggin and State of Maine, on oath depose and say:

That my age is 58 years; that I was a corporal in Company H, Thirteenth Regiment Maine Volunteer Infantry, in the civil war; that I was in the service three years and eleven months; that I now receive a pension from the United States of \$14 per month for malarial poisoning, chronic diarrhea, lumbago, rheumatism, and disease of the respiratory organs; that since the granting of this pension my condition has become worse; my cough has increased so that it has resulted in a rupture; that I am unable to do any work, and have no property or means of support except said pension.

Dated at Lewiston, Me., this 11th day of January, A. D. 1904.

WILLIAM H. McCANN.

JANUARY 11, 1904.

STATE OF MAINE,

*Androscoggin, ss:*

Subscribed and sworn to by the said William H. McCann, before me.

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM H. NEWELL,

*Notary Public in and for the County of Androscoggin.*

And I further certify that I am personally acquainted with the said William H. McCann, and myself took the foregoing statement from him.

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM H. NEWELL.

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STATE OF MAINE, *Cumberland, ss:*

In re William H. McCann, late of Company H, Thirteenth Regiment Maine Volunteers.

I, Enoch Foster, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, on oath depose and say, that I formerly resided in Bethel, in the county of Oxford and State of Maine, until the year 1899; and that I was first lieutenant in said Company H, Thirteenth Regiment Maine Volunteers, in the war of the rebellion, and that said McCann enlisted as a member of that company with me in October, 1861; that he served through the war, after our regiment was stationed at the United States Arsenal at Augusta, before taking the field in the fall of 1861, and I was with him daily from the time of his enlistment, and

knew him very intimately, inasmuch as he came from my native town, until I left the service in the spring of 1864 in Texas.

I had known him personally long before he entered the service, as he had been a pupil of mine when I taught school sometime before the war, and he was then a healthy, rugged man, and so continued to the time of his enlistment and for some time thereafter. But in 1862, while our regiment was at Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip, La., near the mouth of the Mississippi, below New Orleans, he was taken down with the chills and fever, and was a great sufferer, and so continued. He with others was detailed with me to proceed up and down the Mississippi River, to guard plantations above and below New Orleans. I knew him intimately while in that part of the service after the capture of New Orleans, as I was with him daily, and during 1863, after our regiment had taken the field and gone on what is known as the "Banks Expedition," during 1863-64 up to the spring of the latter year, I know he suffered continually with that disease and that he never recovered from it.

At Matagorda on the coast of Texas in the fall of 1863, or the first part of 1864, he contracted chronic diarrhea, and suffered severely from that trouble. I was perhaps more cognizant of these facts for the reason that he not only belonged to my company, wherein I was first lieutenant, but came from the same town in which I was born, and I took a special interest in him.

He was an excellent soldier and never shirked his duty, and I might say he was one of the best men I ever knew in the service, and would perform his duties oftentimes when not physically able to do so.

I will also state that I have known him since his discharge from the service, and I well knew him while I was living at Bethel, and saw him frequently there until the fall of 1865, and I have also known him since the close of the war and up to the present time, but not so intimately as while I was living at Bethel, and I knew that he was suffering constantly from chills and fever for a long time after the service, and also from chronic diarrhea.

I was cognizant of these facts from the fact that I also contracted the same disease while in Texas and was suffering also, and I used to talk with him every time I saw him in Bethel. He was also suffering from kidney trouble and from rheumatism, and I know he was for a long time after leaving the service unable to perform manual labor. I am fully satisfied from what knowledge I have of him that he has never recovered from the diseases of which I have spoken, and I believe him to be in failing health at the present time and is not so well as I knew him to be a few years ago.

I can honestly say that if any soldier ever merited a pension I believe he does.

He is a man of most excellent character and standing in the community where he lives, and has never shirked a day from laboring when he was able to work.

I have not the slightest interest in the claim of Mr. McCann for any pension or increase of the same, and this affidavit has been dictated by me to my stenographer personally, and I am now a practicing attorney at law, in the city of Portland, aforesaid.

Dated this 9th day of January, A. D. 1904.

ENOCH FOSTER.

JANUARY 9, 1904.

STATE OF MAINE, *Cumberland, ss:*

Be it known that on this 9th day of January, 1904, before me, Oscar H. Hersey, a notary public for the State of Maine, residing in the city of Portland in said county, duly commissioned and sworn, and by law authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared Enoch Foster, of said Portland, to me well known and known to be the person he represents himself to be, and who, being by me duly sworn, did make the foregoing affidavit by him subscribed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office the day and year first above written.

[SEAL]

OSCAR H. HERSEY,  
*Notary Public.*STATE OF MAINE,  
*Androscoggin, ss:*

I, Allen L. Hubbard, of Lewiston, in the county of Androscoggin and State of Maine, on oath depose and say that I have known William H. McCann, of Lewiston, for the past six years, and during three of those years boarded in his family, and know his circumstances and condition very well indeed. Since the time I first knew him he has continually and gradually grown weaker and more feeble until, at the present time, he is absolutely and entirely unable to perform any manual labor whatever. His limbs are growing deformed as a result of rheumatism, and he has a very bad rupture that would oblige any ordinary individual to stay abed the greater part of the time. He has no means of support whatever except a small pension. Until about a year ago his wife kept a few boarders to help out on the family expenses, but since that time, owing to the failure of her health, she has hardly been able to do the housework for herself and family. I further aver that I have no interest in this case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

Dated at Lewiston, Me., February 1, A. D. 1904.

ALLEN L. HUBBARD.

STATE OF MAINE,  
*Androscoggin, ss:*

Personally appeared the above-named Allen L. Hubbard, to me well known, and made oath that the above statement by him subscribed is true.

[SEAL.]

DANA S. WILLIAMS,  
*Notary Public.*

JANUARY 7, 1904.

STATE OF MAINE,  
*County of Androscoggin, ss:*

I, Fred L. Dixon, of Lewiston, in said county, on oath depose and say that I am a physician and surgeon in practice at said Lewiston; that in the year 1899 I attended professionally William H. McCann, of said Lewiston, and found him then suffering from an attack of influenza resulting in pneumonia. He had a most intractable cough at that

time, which has continued, and which I believe antedated that attack. At the present time I find his heart dilated and weak. He has also an inguinal hernia on his left side which is growing worse as the result of constant coughing. His general physical condition is poor and likely to grow worse. I do not think he can continue to perform manual labor to any extent.

FRED L. DIXON, M. D.

STATE OF MAINE,  
*Androscoggin, ss:*

Be it known that on this 7th day of January, 1904, before me, Dana S. Williams, a notary public for the State of Maine, residing in the city of Lewiston, in said county, duly commissioned and sworn, and by law authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared Fred L. Dixon, of said Lewiston, to me well known, and known to be the person he represents himself to be, and who, being by me duly sworn, did make the foregoing affidavit by him subscribed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office the day and year first above written.

[SEAL.]

DANA S. WILLIAMS, *Notary Public*.

JANUARY 8, 1904.

STATE OF MAINE,  
*County of Androscoggin, ss:*

I, D. J. McGillicuddy, of Lewiston, in said county, on oath, depose and say, that I have known William H. McCann, of said Lewiston, for the past twenty years; that he has always been a man of good behavior and steady and regular habits of life. I have observed a decline in his bodily health for the past three years, as indicated by his physical appearance. From his present condition and appearance I should say that he is unable to perform any steady manual labor. I know him to be a man without property or financial means or income of any kind, except what he may be able to earn from time to time by labor.

D. J. MCGILlicuddy

STATE OF MAINE,  
*County of Androscoggin, ss:*

Be it known that on this 8th day of January, 1904, before me, Frank A. Morey, a notary public for the State of Maine, residing in the city of Lewiston, in said county, duly commissioned and sworn, and by law authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, personally appeared D. J. McGillicuddy, of said Lewiston, to me well known, and known to be the person he represents himself to be, and who, being by me duly sworn, did make the foregoing affidavit by him subscribed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office the day and year first above written.

[SEAL.]

FRANK A. MOREY,  
*Notary Public, Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Me.*

I, Edmond F. Fahey, of Lewiston, in the county of Androscoggin and State of Maine, on oath depose and say that I have known William H. McCann, of said Lewiston, since the year 1875. From 1875 to 1879

I worked with him in the Androscoggin mill at said Lewiston. I have known during these years that he was suffering from a severe cough. Since that year (1879) I have been engaged in the business of a barber, and have shaved Mr. McCann during the larger part of the time since. When he has been in my shop to get shaved I have noticed that the cough has continued, and at times it has been severe—in fact, so severe that when he was in my chair I had to stop shaving him until he recovered from his coughing spells. This has been frequent, and has continued for all of the years I have known him.

EDMOND F. FAHEY.

STATE OF MAINE,

*County of Androscoggin, ss:*

Be it known that on this 18th day of January, A. D. 1904, before me, Frank A. Morey, a notary public for the State of Maine, residing in the city of Lewiston, in said county, duly commissioned and sworn, and by law authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, personally appeared Edmond F. Fahey, of said Lewiston, to me well known, and who, being by me duly sworn, did make the foregoing affidavit by him subscribed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office the day and year first above written.

[SEAL.]

FRANK A. MOREY,

*Notary Public, Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine.*

LETTERS IN RE WILLIAM H. M'CANN.

LEWISTON, ME., *January 5, 1904.*

DEAR SIR: In 1899 I attended William H. McCann, of this city. He was then suffering from an attack of influenza resulting in pneumonia. He had a most intractable cough at that time, which has continued, and which, I believe, antedated that attack. At the present time I find his heart dilated and weak. He also has an inguinal hernia on left side which is growing worse as a result of constant coughing. His general physical condition is poor, and is likely to grow worse. I do not think he can continue to perform manual labor to any extent.

Respectfully, yours,

FRED. L. DIXON, M. D.

HON. WM. P. FRYE,  
*Washington, D. C.*

LEWISTON, ME., *January 18, 1904.*

*To whom it may concern:*

It gives me pleasure to state that I have been personally and well acquainted with William H. McCann, of Lewiston, since 1868. He was an officer in Company H, Thirteenth Maine Regiment Infantry, in the war of 1861. Those who served with him state that he was an excellent officer during all the years of the war. I have personally and well known him all these years, and know him to have been of excellent character and good habits, truthful and reliable; that when

able he has done all he could for the support of himself and family, but his health has been so poor that he now is reduced in health, and to penury as to means of support. I know he is a good citizen and an honorable man, and is having a severe struggle in his efforts for his support and that of his family with the very small pension he receives from the Government. Whatever may be given to Mr. McCann in the way of an increase of his pension will be worthily bestowed. I have no especial interest in him except such as I would have for any deserving ex-soldier and deservingly good citizen.

A. K. P. KNOWLTON,  
*Attorney at Law, Lewiston, Me.*

JANUARY 18, 1904.

STATE OF MAINE,  
*Androscoggin County, ss:*

Personally appeared A. K. P. Knowlton, to me well known, and subscribed and made oath to the foregoing statement.

[SEAL.]

RALPH W. CROCKETT,  
*Notary Public.*

LEWISTON, *January 20, 1904.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: I am desired by Mr. William McCann, of Lewiston, to speak a word additional out of my acquaintance with him, in his behalf, touching his application for a special pension.

Mr. McCann is a most worthy man, a constant sufferer from the effects of his army experience, able to do practically no active work, and in a condition that of itself appeals strongly to one's sympathy and good will.

I know that nothing I may write will be able to add to your already active interest in everything that pertains to the welfare of your townsmen, but I have ventured to intrude this upon you in his behalf. He is a good fellow, worthy of a pension, if it can be granted him.

Very sincerely, yours,

ARTHUR G. STAPLES.

Hon. WM. P. FRYE,  
*President pro tempore United States Senate.*

LEWISTON, ME., *January 25, 1904.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: Mr. William H. McCann, of Lewiston, informs me that he is about to make application to Congress for a special pension, and I desire to say in his behalf that, in my opinion, his service for his country merits recognition beyond the small pension he is now receiving.

I have known Mr. McCann over thirty years, and during all that time he has been a good citizen and a man of correct habits.

I have noticed a marked and rapid decline in his physical condition during the past two years, and at the present time he is able to do but little, if any, manual labor.

Mr. McCann has no property, and he is worthy of any assistance you may be able to give him.

With highest regards, I am, yours, very truly,

A. D. CORNISH.

Hon. WILLIAM P. FRYE,

*Washington, D. C.*

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LEWISTON, ME., *January 30, 1904.*

DEAR SIR: I have known William H. McCann for a number of years. He was a member of the same regiment as myself, the Thirteenth Maine.

For some time he has been failing in health, and is in need of an increase of pension, which would be of great assistance to him in his declining years.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

Yours, truly,

JOHN F. LAMB.

Hon. WM. P. FRYE,

*Washington, D. C.*

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LEWISTON, ME., *January 30, 1904.*

MY DEAR SIR: Mr. William H. McCann, of Lewiston, is about to apply for a special act of Congress to secure an increase of pension. Judge Foster, Judge Knowlton, and others have given him strong affidavits. Anything that you can do to advance and secure this just claim will be greatly appreciated by,

Yours, cordially,

L. C. BATEMAN.

Hon. WM. P. FRYE.